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LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ICELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the Nordic Governments I have the honour to transmit herewith "The Reykjavik Statement on the United Nations", issued by the Foreign Ministers of the Nordic countries at the end of their meeting in Reykjavik on 21 January 1992.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter and the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Helgi GISLASON
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

The Reykjavik Statement on the United Nations
issued on 21 January 1992

The Nordic countries welcome the special meeting of the United Nations Security Council to be held at the highest political level in New York on 31 January 1992. This meeting is a timely recognition of the fact that the Security Council has begun to fulfil more effectively its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is also an opportunity for the United Nations to look ahead in meeting the challenges of the 1990s under the stewardship of its new Secretary-General.

The Nordic countries consider that the special meeting of the Security Council should give an impetus to an enhanced United Nations role in the prevention of conflicts. They have over the years steadfastly supported the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the vital areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping. The Nordic countries welcomed the May 1990 statement by the President of the Security Council in which the Council, for the first time, outlined its views on United Nations peace-keeping operations as a whole. They have formulated proposals in this regard, most recently in a report entitled "Shaping the peace: the United Nations in the 1990s" and circulated as a Security Council document (S/23159).

Concrete actions in this regard include anticipatory discussions within the Security Council of potential conflicts, support for the Secretary-General in his role in bringing situations threatening international peace and security to the attention of the Security Council, the dispatch of fact-finding missions to areas of potential conflict as well as the early launching of peace-keeping operations as a deterrent.

Steps must be taken to ensure adequate financing of peace-keeping operations, based on the principle of collective responsibility. In this regard, the Nordic countries consider that the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a special peace-keeping start-up fund, an idea which they themselves have long advocated, should be adopted without delay.

The United Nations should be provided with the means to respond effectively to new challenges and demands that increasingly arise within the context of peacemaking and peace-keeping. Such tasks include civilian administration, electoral assistance as well as the launching of actions on humanitarian grounds, with due regard to the Charter, to rectify gross violations of human rights.

In view of recent experience of international action to suppress aggression, the modalities of undertaking such action as a last resort, including the organization of military operations under the aegis of the United Nations as well as the mechanisms for consultation and coordination between Member States, should be given more attention.

The Nordic countries pledge their full support to the Security Council and the Secretary-General in their efforts to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security.